



Climate Smart Kingston Commission  
420 Broadway  
Kingston, NY 12401  
(845) 481-7339

**DRAFT Minutes to the Climate Smart Kingston Commission Meeting, December 13, 2016  
Kingston City Hall, Council Chambers 4:00-5:30 PM**

**Commission Members (Voting):** Azriel Alleyne, Elizabeth Broad, Pat Courtney Strong (excused), Michael D'Arcy, Emilie Hauser, Nick Hvozda, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Sarina Pepper (excused), Karen Sullivan, John Wackman

**Commission Members (Non-Voting):** Casey Schwarz, Amanda LaValle (Ulster County Dept of the Environment; excused)

**Ex-Officio Members:** Suzanne Cahill (Kingston Planning Dept. excused), Brenna Robinson (Kingston Community & Economic Development, not present), Julie Noble (Kingston Parks & Recreation, Commission Chairperson), NYS Assembly Member Kevin Cahill represented by Jillian Nodiak (not present), Kingston Common Council (not present), Kingston City Engineer (not present), Joe Chenier (Kingston Dept of Public Works; not present)

**Guests:** George Donskoj, Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission, Europa McGovern, HVRC, Greg Mumby, Climate Action Associates, David Bruner

- I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm. George Donskoj discussed expedited solar permits with respect to historic properties and read from a communication from Linda Mackay at the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) concerning the draft expedited Kingston solar permit. The OPRHP document is attached as Appendix A to these minutes.
- II. Review and Approval November 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Mike D'Arcy and seconded by Commissioner Emilie Hauser, the minutes to the November meeting were unanimously approved by the voting commissioners present.
- III. Old Business**
  - a. Clean Energy Communities Certification**
    - i. Clean Energy Communities Funding Opportunity Project Review:** Three approved high impact actions have been completed with benchmarking as the fourth action with regards to the Clean Energy Funding Opportunity. The draft benchmarking resolution was reviewed. CFA grant funding was reported. Commissioner Nick Hvozda can attend public Safety on December 28 as an action item regarding the benchmarking draft resolution.
    - ii. NYS Solar Permitting Progress:** Commissioner Mike D'Arcy read a portion of an email from Commissioner Kevin McEvoy discussing missing language from the standard NYSERDA permit form on the present draft Kingston expedited solar permit substantially consistent with the OPRHP communication referenced elsewhere herein. Further discussion concerned Commissioner Mike D'Arcy attending a future Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission meeting to review solar permits in historic districts as an action item.
    - iii. Energy Code Enforcement Training:** Europa McGovern reported on communications with Brenna Robinson and, together with Commissioner D'Arcy, discussed training sessions.
    - iv. Portfolio Manager Benchmarking and Energy Tracking:** Commissioner Nick Hvozda reported on two main tasks regarding benchmarking for building use and

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then entering energy use data. Chair Julie Noble reported on efforts to gather information from the City Assessor on City owned buildings regarding benchmarking. We've gained access to the Direct Energy electricity and natural gas usage data for most of the city properties. The next steps are: (1) Gather building-use data for city buildings. This includes square footage, number of personnel, number of computers and percentage of annual usage. This will most likely be a survey we put out to the city departments to gather information we don't already have. (2) Correlate energy account numbers with specific buildings. Large portions of electricity accounts are listed with the address for City Hall. We will have to determine which actual structure is using this energy.

v. **Certification Review update :**

**a. Renewables:** A possible solar installation at Andy Murphy Center was discussed with respect to technical specifications with input from Commissioner Azriel Alleyne and historic status review input from Commissioner Kevin McEvoy. No action was taken.

**b. LED Streelighting:** Some funding is already bonded; Outdoor lighting citywide is to be further reviewed.

**c. Transportation:** Solar canopy carports information and bike shelters were discussed and mentioned below under priorities.

**d. Other:** Upgrading Energy Efficiency at Municipal Buildings such as a City Hall energy retrofit as well as Farmer's Market composting were mentioned and discussed below under priorities. Curbside compost pickups were discussed with no action taken.

**e. Priorities:** Priority projects were discussed with the following action items: (i) Commissioners Emile Hauser and Mike D'Arcy to review City Hall windows with City Hall Staff; (ii) Commissioner Betta Broad will work on composting at the Farmers Market; (iii) Commissioners John Wackman, Azriel Alleyne and Betta Broad with Kristen Wilson will work on a possible solar parking canopy at a City owned parking lot with bike parking included.

b. **Land Use and Transportation**

i. **Zoning Code Recommendations Review:** Commissioner Kevin McEvoy recently forwarded to the Commissioners a draft natural resource zoning document provided by the Planning Dept. Commissioner Emile Hauser provided comments on flood hazard areas as outlined in the aforementioned document from Planning. Jennifer Schwartz Berky has been working on urban agriculture zoning. Further comments will likely come from the Conservation Advisory Council with input and comments from any commissioners welcomed.

ii. **EV Infrastructure and EV Rebates:** Discussion resulted in no motions made and no resolutions presented.

c. **Adaptation and Resilience**

i. **Fall Climate Adaptive Design (CAD) Studio Public Presentation & Next Semester:** The final Fall CAD presentation was earlier today. Materials and proposals will be provided. Next step could be to share files and do additional outreach. Chair Julie Noble mentioned that the next semester of CAD is tentatively set to focus on the Kingston Point area.

d. **Communication and Outreach**

i. **Common Council Liaison:** Commissioner Mike D'Arcy will attend the Public Safety Committee on December 28.

#### IV. **New Business**

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- a. **Climate Smart Kingston 2017 Meeting Schedule:** It was decided with unanimous acclimation that the Climate Smart Kingston Commission meetings will be set for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 4:30PM for 2017.
  - b. **2017 Climate Smart Kingston Appointments:** Nolan Bastianelli has officially resigned as non-voting commission member under age 21 due to time constraints. Chair Noble also requested commissioners to consider recommendations to fill vacancies as an action item.
  - c. **Community Engagement and Messaging:** Commissioner Mike D’Arcy made a suggestion regarding production of a flyer on energy efficiency programs and will follow up as an action item.
  - d. **Dept of Energy (DOE):** DOE SunShot Prize program was mentioned. Link follows for more information: <https://energy.gov/eere/sunshot/sunshot-initiative>
  - e. **CFA Grants:** Rondout waterfront design process will be commencing shortly.
- V. Announcements/Communications/Events/Updates (Time Permitting)**
- a. **Residential Energy Efficiency Campaign Working Group:** Commissioner Mike D’Arcy gave an update on energy assessments and retrofits. This working group has not met to date but is projected to in January.
  - b. **Municipal Street Light Consortium:** Discussed under Certification Review update above.
  - e. **Ulster County Climate Smart Committee:** Commissioners Azriel Alleyne and Betta Broad gave a brief report.
- VI. Adjournment:** Upon motion duly made by Commissioner John Wackman and seconded by Commissioner Mike D’Arcy, the voting commissioners unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting at 5:47pm.

*Links to external websites are informational only with no representation by the CAC being made as to content contained therein.*

**MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORM SUBJECT TO COMMISSION ADOPTION AND APPROVAL  
NO REPRESENTATIONS ARE MADE WITH REGARDS TO THIS DRAFT DOCUMENT.**

## **APPENDIX A**

12/13/2016

Print

**Subject:** RE: URGENT Solar Issue for Tuesday 12/13  
**From:** Mackey, Linda (PARKS) (Linda.Mackey@parks.ny.gov)  
**To:** georgedonskoj@yahoo.com;  
**Date:** Monday, December 12, 2016 3:02 PM

Good afternoon George –

I work with Julian in the CLG program, and he asked that I follow-up on your question.

I spoke with Julian and he said even before I arrived at SHPO (3+ years ago), staff here at SHPO worked with NYSERDA on the specific language, therefore we recommend the language as written in the NYSERDA form.

How the City revised that first section, it appears they are allowing property owners to opt out of required reviews in the City code through the permitting process. There is nothing in the City's preservation ordinance that allows property owners to opt out. The installation of solar panels on locally designated properties is an exterior alteration that requires review by the local historic commission.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

**Linda Mackey**

Historic Preservation Specialist / Survey & Evaluation Unit

CLG Representative, Eastern New York

**New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation**

Peebles Island Resource Center

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